

# Great ideas to help you save water

## How to have a water wise garden

**MULCH:** Keep soil cool and reduce evaporation by up to 70%. Spread it at least 7cm deep around plants.

**WEED:** Weeds compete with plants for valuable water. So remove them whenever they stick their heads up!

**USE SHADE AS PROTECTION:** Move pots into the shade and use shade cloth over sensitive plants.

**ADD SOIL-WETTING AGENTS:** Water crystals and soil-wetting agents will retain moisture and help nourish your precious plants for longer.

**FERTILISE:** Feed your plants fertiliser to help them resist the stress of summer heat.

**WATER WISELY:** Different plants and different parts of the garden have different watering requirements. Water accordingly and only if needed.

Remember most gardens do not need to be watered for the entire allowable watering time.

Note: Greywater must be used within 24 hours of collection unless it has been treated. For further information contact the EPA (details below).

## Creative garden watering solutions

**USE A BUCKET:** The simplest and cheapest greywater system available!

- Place it in the shower and collect the 'warm up' water or leave it at your feet to collect the run off.
- Scoop out bath or basin water.
- Catch water from your washing machine's last rinse cycle.
- Place a container in the sink when washing food.

**GREYwater DIVERSION:** Connect a greywater diverter to outdoor piping and collect the water in a large container.

**PERMANENT GREYwater SYSTEMS:** Must be installed by a licensed plumber and requires council approval.

**RAINwater HARVESTING:** Harvested rainwater is a great option for garden watering, with many water tanks to choose from in a variety of colours and materials.

For more information on sustaining your garden in dry times visit [www.ourwater.vic.gov.au](http://www.ourwater.vic.gov.au) and click on **Water Wise Gardening**.



Spread mulch at least 7cm deep to reduce evaporation and keep your plants healthy through the hot summer months.

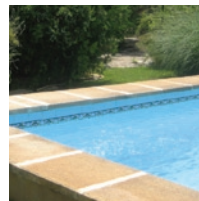
## How can I keep my car and driveway clean?

- ✓ Consider using greywater or rainwater from a bucket to spot clean the car. A good option is to collect the 'warm up' water when showering or running a bath.
- ✓ Water-free car washing products are starting to appear on the market and are a great alternative for keeping your car clean.
- ✓ Visit an efficient car wash using 70 litres of water or less per vehicle.
- ✓ Use a broom to sweep the driveway or an air blower for fast results.



## How can I keep my pool full?

- ✓ Place a cover over your pool to minimise evaporation.
- ✓ Minimise splash.
- ✓ Top up with rainwater.
- ✓ Maintain chemical levels and regularly test the water.



## How do I keep my exterior windows clean?

It sounds simple, but the tried and tested window spray is one of the most effective ways to keep outside windows clean.

If you don't think that will do the trick, opt for greywater or rainwater from a bucket.

## Other great ways to save water

- ✓ Install a three-star rated water-efficient showerhead.
- ✓ When purchasing a new washing machine choose one with a four-star rating or above.
- ✓ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- ✓ Install flow control valves to further reduce water use.
- ✓ Only use your dishwasher or clothes washing machine when you have a full load.
- ✓ Fix any dripping taps or leaking toilet cisterns.
- ✓ Reduce your shower time to four minutes.



## Further information

**Water saving products**  
savewater!® Alliance  
Web: [www.savewater.com.au](http://www.savewater.com.au)

**Greywater guidelines**  
Environmental Protection Authority  
Web: [www.epa.vic.gov.au/water](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/water)  
Telephone: 9695 2722

**Greywater collection and use**  
Alternative Technology Association  
Web: [www.ata.org.au](http://www.ata.org.au)

**Safe use of detergents**  
Lanfax Laboratories  
Web: [www.lanfaxlabs.com.au](http://www.lanfaxlabs.com.au)

**General advice and rebates**  
Our Water Our Future  
Web: [www.ourwater.vic.gov.au](http://www.ourwater.vic.gov.au)  
Telephone: 136 186

City West Water 131 691 [www.citywestwater.com.au](http://www.citywestwater.com.au)  
South East Water 131 867 [www.southeastwater.com.au](http://www.southeastwater.com.au)  
Yarra Valley Water 131 721 [www.yarravalleywater.com.au](http://www.yarravalleywater.com.au)

Our Water Our Future  
A Victorian Government initiative

